

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Cancer Institute**

**Minutes of the State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and
Environmental Research Coordinating Committee**

May 25, 2011

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on May 25, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. via webinar. The Chair of the subcommittee is Michele Forman, PhD of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Subcommittee Members Present

Janice Barlow
Suzanne Fenton, PhD
Michele Forman, PhD
Sandra Haslam, PhD
Vivian Pinn, MD
Neeraja Sathyamoorthy, PhD

NIH Staff Present

Jennifer Collins, MR
Laura McGuinn, MPH
Mary Gant, MS

I. BACKGROUND

The Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC) is a congressionally mandated body established by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This Committee is comprised of 19 voting members, including representatives of Federal agencies; non-federal scientists, physicians, and other health professionals from clinical, basic, and public health sciences; and advocates for individuals with breast cancer.

The Committee's primary mission is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information on breast cancer research activities among the member agencies, and to advise the NIH and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to further evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. The Committee serves as a forum and assists in increasing public understanding of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies, and research, and in bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The objectives of the SOS Subcommittee of the IBCERCC are integrated and dependent on the objectives and activities of the other Subcommittees¹ of the IBCERCC and include the following: to summarize the state of the literature (both animal and human research); advances in breast cancer research supported or conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer (and related disorders); and identify research gaps.

¹ The other Subcommittees of the IBCERCC are the Research Process Subcommittee (Chair, Michael Gould) and the Research Translation, Dissemination, and Policy Implications Subcommittee (Chair, Jeanne Rizzo).

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its fifth meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via webinar on May 25, 2011. Attendees of the meeting included committee members and NIH staff. The meeting agenda included discussion on the following: a review of the subcommittee break-out sessions held at the May 12-13, 2011 in-person meeting, updates on progress made since the in-person meeting, and discussion of the time line and review of the work load.

II. Discussion

Michele welcomed everyone to the call. The group reviewed the subcommittee breakout sessions that occurred during the May 12-13 in-person meeting.

For the advances section, the group discussed the need to have input from others about the advances in breast cancer diagnosis, prevention, and treatment from 1972 and beyond. Sandy reminded everyone that the legislation asks us to focus on federally funded research. Neeraja said that we should base information on all advances because some research is jointly funded by federal and non-federal agencies. References should be requested because they may acknowledge the source of funding for the advance. Sandy suggested that it might be eye-opening to identify the funding sources. The memo will go to the members of the IBCERCC and then they will ask others (2-3) to perform the same. The group will indicate who they will be sending it to so that the same person does not receive multiple requests. This would amount to a cluster of 30-40 people eventually. The group decided that the respondent can indicate if NIH, industry, or non-profit funding (have three-four categories to select from). If needed, the Research Process group can identify the source of funding. Michele reminded everyone that the focus is on advances. When they think of advances, they need to think of all advances (independent of source).

Edits suggested to Michele's current draft of the memo included the following:

- Janice thought that it would be good to ask about emerging advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment.
- Jenny will insert IBCERCC email box in place of her name on the memo.
- Add boxes to check regarding general funding sources (NIH, DOD, other federal, industry, non-profit, other).
- The introductory information in the memo will be edited by Neeraja and then sent back to Michele.
- Adjust the date for sending responses from July 1 to June 20.

The group also discussed reviewing the Annual Reports from federal agencies to look for advances in Breast Cancer. Vivian and Neeraja will work together to approach the Liaisons of Women's Health Coordinating Committee to get advances from them. Vivian pointed out that the last Office of Women's report (1990-2010) has a section on breast cancer – genes, etiology and prevention that will provide coverage for NIH. During the call, she distributed the report to the group.

The memo for the advances will not focus on animal model research – a separate memo from sue and sandy would deal with this.

Biomonitoring and GIS recommended by Janice will be covered to some degree in the State-of-the-Science.

The group discussed use of the term “critical” when discussing windows of susceptibility (WOS). The general consensus is that we should avoid using the word critical since some windows might not have been identified. There are stages of development that occur that might not have been identified as a WOS. Thus clarifications of WOS from stages of development need to be included in the introduction.

Progress Updates were then provided by the groups working on the chapters. For the *animal research* – chapter, Sue reported that she is working on updating the current draft of the animal models section based on discussions held at May meeting. Sandy is sending images for human, rat, and mouse breast development. Michele has a diagram for WOS diagram that she will send to Sue and Sandy. Sue will have the multimedia center at NIEHS start developing some images for the report.

For the human epidemiology research chapter, Michele is working on the life course approach, WOS, and then the methods approach to the human epidemiology literature reviews. Laura has been working on references and updating the tables.

Laura will ask Debbie if she has found someone from NCI to do a broad Medline search from 2009 on for environmental exposures and breast cancer risk. If Debbie hasn't found someone, Laura will either do the search herself or ask Gary to assist.

The discussion of mechanisms in the introduction will be generic related to carcinogenesis and endocrine disruptors while the human and animal sections will address the evidence for specific underlying mechanisms related to breast cancer.

The group closed by discussing the timeline for getting the memos out regarding information on advances. Jenny will compile responses from the IBCERCC mailbox and also post them on the SharePoint and send updates to the SOS group before each meeting. The SharePoint space will include a list of people who will be contacted and the person that will contact them.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. on May 25, 2011.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

/Michele Forman/

Michele Forman, PhD

Chairperson

State-of-the-Science Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

/Gwen W. Collman/

Gwen W. Collman, PhD

Executive Secretary

Research Process Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

Proper signatures

Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)